SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: If they have not agreed, you take up Special mentions.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK); All right. I have no option. We will take up special mention first.

REFERENCE TO THE LOSS OF EYE-SIGHT' FOLLOWING OPERATIONS PERFORMED IN KHURJA AND MORADABAD

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to mention a matter of Urgent public importance with regard- to losing eyesight following operations of cataract afld others, which were perfor-meU in the eye camps in Khurja and Moradabad. I have something to say about the press, in the first instance. The ori ginal reports were quite frightening. Ihe Inal report has now established that 84 ont of 88 operations in Khurja have failed and people lost their eyesight. The alarming news of 300 out of 400 losing eyesineht at the eye-camp organised at Moradabad is happily not true, and I am really wondering as t» how the press does not take ci~e and pay more attention as it tt causing such a great panic when it is taid that 300 out of 400 lost their eye-tfght. Actually, only five persona lost eyesight.

However, Sir, it is an important matter Which really calls for my mentioning it and r draw the urgent attention of the Minister concerned.

Sir, all these people who had gone to Ae eye-camp in the hope of seeing light liave gone home totally blind, permanently Wind and in total and permanent darkless. Very rarely hope turns into despair •o soon and Jn such proportion. Sir, eye-camps have come to stay in our country. I have known of eye-camps wersince I was a child. Those days, Dr. .<&rdesai, a well known Opthalmic surgeoa conducted these camps and this was called 'Netra Yagna' where patients could be operated and treated successfully. Dr. Mehra of Sitapur Eye Hospital was likewise doing it with great success. And there were no complaints. Even today, several institutes are conducting eye eamps. Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Trust, for example, r have not know these camps being great work. But the point 1 want to mak* is that there are certain periods for conducting these eye camps. For example, I have not known these camps bring conducted either in hot months or monsoon months. 1 have got some literature with me from Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Trust which says 'please conduct your eye camps only in the months of February March that is, cold months. Therefora draw the Minister's attention to see that these camps aTe not held during hot and monsoon months.

The second point which I want to say is....

THE MINISTER OF STATE TN THE MINTSTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFATRS (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): Special mention is confined to three minutes. *(Interruptions),* I am only requesting the Chair.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Don't take guillotine in your hand.

SHRI MURMDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: It is a very important subiect; people are suffering. Sir, today holding of these camps is entirely done through private agencies. I hope some sort of supervision by public or governmental ageneies is necessary. Whenever a camp is held, notice should be given to public authority who should send their team to supervise because ultimately we are dealing with human suffering.

I am mentioning all this because the campaign of eye-camps should grow; it should not get a set-back. One of th* causes of blindness is spurious saline which was manufactured, a* per report*, BS it was done in regard to Hoffkine vaccine for the poloi for the children. I think

.thi* clement of spurious drugs should be very seriously dealt with. I therefore, draw the attention of the Government to these two important aspects.

REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO WITHDRAW FREIGHT EQUALISATION SCHEME IN RESPECT OF INDUSTRIAL COMMODITIES

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): I draw the attenlion of the Houig and of the Government to a very important issue of Freight Equalisation policy. The national 7'ransport Policy Committee, under the Chfirmanship of Shri B. D. Pande, in their renort submitted to the Government, in 1980 recommended that the freight equalisation scheme in respect of industrial commodities like steel should be gradually phased out, since it has no; served the objective of regional development but has led to the non-optima] location of industries. The Government of India have accepted this recommenda'ion in principle. In line with this recommendation, the Government also decided that the subsidisation of transport cost in ihe case of remote, inaccessible and isolated areas like the North-Eastern Region .ihould be continued. Sir, in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Qnestion No. 736 dated the 30th Inly. 1985, it was stated by Shri K. Natwar Singh, the then Minisler of State in thp Department of Steel, that the modalities and the time-phasing of the withdrawal of the freight equalisation scheme wee being worked out in consultation with the Ministries concerned. lt was stated that the mo I

wouid be worked out within three months. Th`L. 'very important. 'Within thre* months'. , The period of three months ended on ihe 29th October. 1985. The period was further ewxtended by another three months, up to 29th January, 1986. In reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 997. on the 26th November, 1985, it was stated that thg modalities and the time-phasing of the withdrawal were still to be worked out. In reply io Rajya Sabha Starred question 292 on Jbe. 14th March. 1986, the Minister of J^eel .<nd Mines said and I quote:

"A number of representations have been received from States located ftr- I

the away from stee: plants agai tt phasing out of the freight equalisajoa scheme in respect of iron and s ee). The e views will be taken into account while working out the modalities"

Then, Sir_ the Prime Minister is reported to have assured rep.esenia ives of the Chambe.s of Commerce a d trad« union representative a. Calcutt; only on the lst July this year, that th- woi'd examine the que-tion and e\pe ie the decision. Sir, in view of all thse facts— I do not want to quo'e o'her fac s—tha should be accepted as an a«suran -e given by the Minister to 'he House. This should not be trea'ed merelv as an information. According to me, this is **not** a mere info-mation. As ' eariier, this constitutes a definite, co^c'se and p-e-cise assurance. Therefore. 'his assuranc© has to be implemented. Sir. T demand, a statement, on behalf of the Government, should be made in the House to exnlain-the position, as to how nnd wh*n this dcision °f the Government would be implemented.

THR VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Shri' Vishvajit Prithvijit Sinch. He is not here. Shri Satya Prakash. Malaviya. He is not here. Shri Thangabaalu.

REFERENCE TO THE CAUVERY WATER DISPUTE

SHRI THANGABAALU (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with your permis-ton, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government a matter of urgent public importance, through this august House. Sir for the last sixteen years. there have been discussions and meetings in regard to the Cauvery water dispute, between the S'ates of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. Now, the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala met last month and they decided after the meeting that the talks had failed and that there was no other way out for them but to refer the quei-tion to the Centre and accept its verdict At this juncture, I would like to point out, as per the 1924 agreement, Tami. Nadu has to get 40,000 crof% cubic feet of water yeariy. *(Interruptions)*